

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing proposed amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-9 and 11-20 are pending in this application. Claim 10 was canceled by a previous amendment. Claims 15-20 have been withdrawn from consideration due to a restriction requirement.

To expedite prosecution, it is proposed to cancel claims 15-20 subject to Applicant's right to file a divisional on the non-elected invention, cancel claims 1-9 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer, and to amend independent claim 11 to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 12. The Examiner indicated the allowance of claims 13 and 14, which is gratefully appreciated. No new claims have been added. No new matter has been added to the application.

Claims 1-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okajima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,700,591). As noted above, it is proposed to cancel claims 1-9 which would render the rejection as to these claims moot. As for claim 11, it is proposed amend independent claim 11 to include all of the limitations of its dependent claim 12. Essentially, amended claim 11 as proposed would be claim 12 rewritten in independent form. The Examiner has indicated that claim 12, if rewritten in independent form, would be allowable. It is respectfully requested that the proposed amendment be entered since it should remove the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and place the application in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the proposed amendments to claims 1-9 and 11-20 would overcome the rejections set forth in the final Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the proposed amendment after the final rejection be entered and that

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the claims be given favorable reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and remarks.
Allowance of claim 11 is courteously solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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